

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for surgically tattooing a patient, comprising the steps
of:

providing a sealed ink dispensing instrument having sterilized tattoo ink
therein and defining a port for dispensing said tattoo ink;

dispensing the tattoo ink from the port of the ink cartridge;

directing the tattoo ink with respect to predetermined body tissue of a
patient to mark the body tissue; and

disposing the ink cartridge after use on the patient.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the ink dispensing
instrument includes a deformable ink cartridge having said tattoo ink therein and
wherein said step of dispensing includes deforming said ink cartridge to dispense said
tattoo ink under pressure.

3. The method according to claim 2 further including the step of
connecting a needle to said ink cartridge adjacent said port and wherein said step of
directing includes passing said tattoo ink through a lumen in said needle to mark the
predetermined body tissue.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of directing
includes penetrating the predetermined body tissue with said tattoo needle.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of directing includes penetrating the predetermined body tissue with a tattoo needle and applying said tattoo ink to said tattoo needle.

5 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said ink dispensing instrument includes an ink cartridge having an internal cavity for accommodating said tattoo ink.

7. A surgical ink dispensing instrument for facilitating surgical tattooing of a patient, which comprises:

10 an ink cartridge defining an internal chamber, said ink cartridge defining a port in communication with said internal chamber; and
sterile tattoo ink disposed within said ink cartridge.

15 8. The device according to claim 7 wherein said ink cartridge is substantially flexible to permit the operator to deform said ink cartridge to expel said tattoo ink through said port.

20 9. The apparatus according to claim 8 further including an end cap removably mounted to said ink cartridge about said port to substantially enclose said port.

10. The device of claim 6 wherein said ink cartridge defines a generally elongated portion for engagement by the user.